

Commonwealth of Virginia  
Department of Social Services



**ONS TRANSMITTAL NUMBER 07-03**      **Date: April 2, 2007**

☐ ACTION ITEM      ☒ INFORMATIONAL ITEM

**Subject:**      **(1) TANF Work Requirements Exemptions & (2) VIEW Transitional Payments**

**To:**      ONS Resettlement Provider Directors

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**Background:** The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 increased requirements on states to place TANF recipients in *federally* countable work activities. The federal Department of Health and Human Services issued interim final regulations under which states are required to operate until final rules are issued. The Division of Benefit Programs, which administers the TANF program, modified its state TANF rules based on the new federal requirements.

**Changes to the Virginia's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program (TANF):** The most significant change for Virginia is the change in its exemptions from the TANF work program. The TANF work program is called VIEW (Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare). For example, Virginia has eliminated the VIEW exemptions for pregnant women and non-parents who receive TANF. It changed the exemption for caring for a child less than 18 months of age, to less than 12 months. It expanded the definition of work activities to include all categories allowed by federal regulations. These changes were effective September 1, 2006 for new cases and December 31 for previously opened cases.

These changes increase in the number of persons receiving TANF who are subject to the work requirement because people previously exempt from VIEW might now be required to participate. There is no change to existing policy that allows refugees, who are receiving TANF and are VIEW mandatory, to have their participation in refugee resettlement employment activities meet VIEW requirements.

**View Transitional Payments:** Beginning October 1, 2006, TANF recipients who are employed and are no longer eligible for TANF may receive an incentive payment of \$50.00 per month for up to 12 months if at least one member of the family

- ✓ was participating in VIEW at the time of the TANF case closure;
- ✓ is employed for a minimum of 30 hours per week;
- ✓ receives hourly wages equal to or more than the federal minimum wage.

**Note:** This and all ONS transmittals are posted at <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/ons/transmittals.cgi>